



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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MORTGAGE FRAUD SURGE INVESTIGATION NETS MORE THAN 100 INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT MIDDLE FLORIDA

United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces today the results of a nine-month-long Mortgage Fraud Surge investigation that has resulted in charges against more than 100 defendants and involves allegations concerning more than \$400 million in loans procured by fraud and more than 700 properties.

The Mortgage Fraud Surge was launched in late January 2009 in response to the epidemic of mortgage fraud throughout Florida which began during Florida's real estate boom earlier this decade. To address this wide-scale problem, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida, along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in both its Tampa and Jacksonville Divisions, began a nine-month intensive effort to identify, investigate, and prosecute mortgage fraud in all of its forms.

To accomplish the Surge, the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida devoted significant additional personnel and resources to investigating and prosecuting mortgage fraud cases. All of the Assistant U.S. Attorneys in the Ft. Myers, Orlando, and Jacksonville offices responsible for criminal matters handled mortgage fraud investigations, and in the District's largest office, Tampa, over half of the Criminal Division Assistant U.S. Attorneys were assigned mortgage fraud matters. In addition, FBI Special Agent in Charge Steven E. Ibison of the Tampa Division and

FBI Special Agent in Charge Jim Casey of the Jacksonville Division established mortgage fraud task forces in their respective jurisdictions. A number of state and federal law enforcement agencies joined these mortgage fraud task forces, and the agents, investigators, and other law enforcement personnel from these participating agencies conducted an intensive and wide-ranging investigation into hundreds of mortgage fraud leads during this Surge phase. Along with the FBI, the agencies that joined in the Surge and who participated in the mortgage fraud task forces are:

Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation

U.S. Secret Service

U.S. Housing and Urban Development / Office of Inspector General

U.S. Postal Inspection Service

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Florida Department of Financial Services/Division of Insurance Fraud

Florida Office of Financial Regulation

Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Lee County Sheriff's Office (Ft. Myers Division only)

Collier County Sheriff's Office (Ft. Myers Division only)

Brevard County Sheriff's Office (Orlando Division only)

The U.S. Attorney's Office charged mortgage fraud defendants throughout the Middle District of Florida. The number of defendants charged by office breaks down as follows: Ft. Myers-32; Tampa-30; Orlando-19; and Jacksonville-24. Of these defendants, 7 are related to cases under seal and not in the public record at this juncture.

An indictment or complaint is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

The Surge investigation completed on October 31st and announced today is the first phase of a continuing effort to investigate and prosecute not only mortgage fraud professionals and other individuals who have engaged in multiple fraudulent mortgage transactions, but also larger organizations and even financial institutions.

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_____The Mortgage Fraud Surge cases are being prosecuted by the following Assistant United States Attorneys:

Ft. Myers

Douglas Molloy (Office Chief), Robert P. Barclift, David Haas, Jeff Michelland, Jesus Casas, Yolande Viacava, and Nicole Waid.

Tampa

Robert Mosakowski (Office Chief), Rachelle DesVaux - Bedke, Simon Gaugush, Shauna Hale, Jay Hoffer, Kelley Howard-Allen, Amanda Kaiser, Cherie Krigsman, Robert Monk, Laurel Moore, James Muench, Stephen W. Muldrow, Christopher Murray, Robert O'Neill, Thomas Palermo, Matthew Perry, Amanda Riedel, Jay Trezevant, and Terry Zitek.

Orlando

Roger B. Handberg (Office Chief), Bruce S. Ambrose, Robert E. Bodnar, Jackson E. Boggs, Jr., Vincent Chiu, Vincent Citro, Sandra W. Deisler, Daniel W. Eckhart, Karen L.

Gable, I. Randall Gold, Katherine Ho, Daniel C. Irick, LaKesia Mosley, Carlos A. Perez, J. Bishop Ravenel, and Tanya Davis Wilson.

Jacksonville

Julie Savell (Office Chief), Dineen Baker, Rodney D. Brown, Dale Campion, Chip Corsmeier, Mark Devereaux, Tysen Duva, Kevin Frein, John Guard, Mac Heavener, Ronald Henry, Kathleen O'Malley, Nick Pilgrim, Angela Sherrer, Russell Stoddard, Frank Talbot, and Jay Taylor.